

ENERGY MANAGER AS AN OBLIGATION FOR LARGE END USERS: THE ITALIAN EXPERIENCE

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Overview

Since 1991 in Italy it is mandatory to appoint an energy manager for every industrial organization with an annual consumption of more than 10,000 toe and for organizations from other sectors above 1,000 toe. In almost 25 years the energy market and the awareness about energy efficiency have dramatically changed, putting energy managers in the limelight in the recent years as the driver of energy saving within large organizations. The importance of such a role is becoming to be recognised also in medium companies, especially if energy intensive, and in Italy has been linked to the energy management expert, a skilled and certified professional according to the Italian standard UNI CEI 11339.

Methods

FIRE has conducted many analysis since 1991 to monitor the activities and the role of the appointed energy managers, together with the evolution of the market. These analysis give a picture of what has happened across the years and of the main achievements of energy managers.

Results

Surveys and analysis show an improving role of energy managers, but still a lack of understanding of its potentials and of the better ways to insert them in the organisation charts. Many companies have nevertheless reached good results within a continuous improvement logic. The best results can be reached by having them in charge of an energy management system, according to ISO 50001, coupled with a leadership that has recognised the importance of energy as a driver of its choices.

Conclusions

A mandatory approach to energy managers don't ensures corresponding results in a company, since what really drives the change is the commitment of the companies' leaders. Nevertheless to have a national network of energy managers and a body such as FIRE to manage it permit to improve the sharing of best practices and the collection of problems, useful to improve the legislation and regulation affecting energy efficiency.

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